

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

FACT SHEET



ELIGIBILITY AND DISCHARGE

Military Service Discharge Information

Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge (other than dishonorable) from active military service. You should keep your DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty*, or other discharge documents, in a safe location that you and your next of kin or designated representative can easily get.

Replacing Military Records

If you need to replace your military records, use Standard Form 180, *Request Pertaining to Military Records*. You may get this form at a VA regional office or from our website at www.va.gov/forms

Review of Discharges

You may apply for a review of your discharge. Write to the military department concerned using DD Form 293, *Application for the Review of Discharge or Dismissal From the Armed Forces of the United States*. You may get this form at a VA regional office or from our website at www.va.gov/forms

Correction of Military Records

If you feel your military records contain an error, you may apply for a correction of your military records. Use DD Form 149, *Application for Correction of Military Records*, available at a VA regional office or from our website at www.va.gov/forms

Transition Assistance Programs

Transition Assistance Programs provide information to help you make the transition to civilian life easier. These programs tell you about the many benefits that may be available to you. VA encourages you to contact your Family Service Centers/Transition Center to find out when the Transition Assistance briefings will be held at a location convenient to you.

Eligibility

Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge (other than dishonorable) from active military service. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Eligibility of benefits depends upon individual circumstances. To apply, please contact the nearest VA regional office or call VA's toll-free number, **1-800-827-1000**.

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Health Care Enrollment and Eligibility

For health care applications and eligibility procedures, please call VA's toll-free number, **1-800-827-1000**, visit our website at **www.va.gov/health/elig**, or contact your nearest VA hospital or health care facility.

Filing Claims

If you are seeking a VA benefit for the first time, you must submit a copy of your DD Form 214 or other discharge document with your application for benefits.

Important Documents to Have

- DD Form 214 or other discharge documents
- Veteran's birth certificate
- Veteran's marriage certificate
- Children's birth certificates
- Veteran's death certificate

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